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Kaibab National Forests

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KAIBAB

NATIONAL FOREST

A R I Z O N A

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MAR 1929



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service ~ ~ ~ ~ Intermountain District
March, 1928

LOCATION OF FOREST OFFICERS

Forest supervisor, Kanab, Utah.

Forest rangers at Jacob Lake, VT Ranch, Dry Park, and Big Springs.

All may be reached by telephone.

Every forest officer is an information bureau—ask him.



PREVENT FOREST FIRES—IT PAYS

Build camp fires in the open—not under trees or near the roots of trees.

Write names and initials in register—do not carve them on trees.

Every year autos kill a number of deer on the roads by colliding with them. Drive carefully at night.

KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST, which lies entirely within the boundaries of the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve, was originally a part of the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve, created February 20, 1893, by President Harrison. The Grand Canyon National Game Preserve was established June 29, 1906, by President Roosevelt, and took in all the lands in the forest reserve lying north and west of the Colorado River. In 1908 the forest area, known at that time as the Grand Canyon National Forest, was divided into the Coconino and the Kaibab National Forests, the former on the south side of the Grand Canyon and the latter on the north side.

The Kaibab Plateau, which is 50 miles long and 20 miles wide, contains no running streams and few springs. The porous nature of the top limestone permits the water from snow and rain to go down instead of running off. Sink holes are formed, and many of these may be seen in the woods and small valleys. When the outlets get plugged up, these sink holes become small lakes.

Kaibab is an Indian name meaning "mountain lying down." The Kaibab Plateau, which is known locally as Buckskin Mountain, was formerly a great Indian hunting ground.

The Kaibab National Forest is accessible by automobile, but in winter the snow becomes 6 to 8 feet deep along De Motte and Pleasant Valleys, and the automobile roads are open only from about May 15 to November 15.

CAMP GROUNDS

Camping is free anywhere on the forest, and at certain places free public camp grounds have been provided with some conveniences.

VT RANCH

ELEVATION, 8,800 FEET

At VT Ranch the deer are a great attraction; and in order that everybody may have an opportunity to see and study them, no occupancy will be permitted north of the present ranch buildings. Visitors should not walk or drive into this area, because to do so would force the deer farther away. There is no objection to walking in the meadows at other places.

At this ranch, which was formerly the headquarters of a large cattle company, there is a cabin lodge or hotel. Gasoline, groceries, and fresh milk may be obtained.

HIGHWAY CAMP, JACOB LAKE

ELEVATION, 7,500 FEET

At Highway Camp, water, hauled from Kanab or Ryan, is given free to travelers. Gasoline, groceries, lunches, and cold drinks may also be obtained.

BIG SPRINGS CAMP

ELEVATION, 6,700 FEET

Many years ago cliff dwellers lived under the projecting rocks above the spring at this camp ground. To-day, however, only a few pieces of rock and mud from the cliff dwellings remain.

TIMBER

Timber is a crop. Unlike a farm crop, however, trees require many years to mature, and the man who plants them seldom does the harvesting. On the Kaibab it takes from 150 to 200 years for the trees to reach maturity.

The trees of the Kaibab are piñon pine, which produces edible nuts, western yellow pine, blue spruce, white fir, Douglas fir, and quaking aspen.

The Kaibab contains about two billion feet, board measure, of timber 12 inches in diameter and over. Small sawmills are cutting only enough to supply the local demand. Some day this timber may be needed to help supply the Nation's demand for lumber. When that time comes, the Forest Service will manage the cutting, so that the mature trees will be cut before they die and the young trees will be left to grow. The object of the management will be to develop and preserve the beauty of the camp grounds, drives, and trails, and at the same time make the mature trees available for building homes and keeping industries supplied with raw material.

The Black Hills beetle was epidemic in the Kaibab National Forest from 1920 to 1925 and killed 150,000,000 feet of timber. The infestation has been controlled temporarily, partly by natural causes and partly by the cooperative efforts of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Entomology.

The beetles are attracted and encouraged by old trees, but when they become numerous they attack and kill any yellow pine tree in their path and leave the area a brown dead waste. It is nature's way of disposing of the timber crop, but leaves large open spaces that do

not become timbered again for many years. Practical forestry will harvest the mature trees, leaving the young trees to grow, and will keep the areas perpetually green.

DEER

The Kaibab Plateau has long been famous for its great herd of mule deer, which numbered about 3,000 when the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve, of which the Kaibab National Forest is a part, was established in 1906. Since that time Government hunters and trappers have so reduced the numbers of mountain lions and coyotes that the



deer have increased to a herd estimated by the Forest Service to be between 25,000 and 30,000.

The deer are confined to the mountain by natural barriers—the Grand Canyon on the east and south and Kanab Canyon on the west. There is no natural barrier to the north, but there are many miles without water, and the drift that way is small.

The summer coat of the deer is of a reddish color, the winter coat gray. Fawns are born about July 1, and twins are the rule. They do not come out into the open valleys until they are several weeks old. The horns of the deer drop off every year in February, and by July have grown to full size again. After the second year, the age can not be told by the number of points on the horns, as old deer will sometimes grow small horns.

Deer are browsers; they eat very little grass. They summer on top of the plateau, where they feed upon weeds and wild mountain clover. All the aspen leaves have been eaten off as high up as deer can reach, and no little aspen trees can be found anywhere. Deer are very fond of the mushrooms which grow under the trees in wet seasons, and seem to know how to select the edible ones and reject the poisonous ones. Summer feed has become scarce, and the deer have eaten the tips of young pines and firs until the little trees have been stunted or killed.

As winter comes on the herd divides, the greatest number going west to winter between the plateau and Kanab Creek, a smaller number going east between the plateau and Marble Canyon, and some going below the rim of the canyons. The east-side area is small and shows severe overgrazing. The west-side area has been so heavily browsed by large numbers of deer that the most palatable species of browse, the cliff rose or buckbrush, has been greatly injured and more than 50 per cent of it killed. On large areas juniper trees have been trimmed of foliage as high as the deer can reach standing on their hind feet. Piñon pine trees are also being browsed. Because of the serious injury to the more palatable forage, sagebrush, piñon, and juniper are now the principal winter feed.

The number of deer is in excess of the food supply. In order to prevent injury to the young growing trees and to benefit the deer herd itself, the Forest Service has worked out a plan of management, the outstanding features of which are:

To hold the top of the plateau—the summer range—as a sanctuary and disturb the deer there as little as possible.

To reduce the herd to such a number that the food supply will be adequate to maintain the animals in good condition both winter and summer, this reduction to be made on fall and winter ranges by trapping the deer and shipping them to other game areas, and by such other methods as will allow the best possible utilization of the animals removed.

To maintain always as large a herd of deer as the food supply will support in healthy condition.

GRAZING

When the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve was created there were 15,000 cattle and 8,000 sheep grazing on the area that is now the Kaibab National Forest. These numbers have been progressively reduced on account of the increasing deer herd until there are now less than 1,000 head of cattle and 2,400 sheep.

The grazing habits of cattle and sheep are somewhat different from those of deer. On this Forest, cattle and sheep eat grass principally, and also weeds and some browse. Deer are naturally browsers and

take very little grass. Therefore, domestic animals in reasonable numbers and deer can graze together very well on the same range.

The cattle and sheep graze principally on the north end of the mountain and do not injure the cliff rose and other browse. At this end of the forest the deer are not numerous.

KAIBAB OR WHITE TAIL SQUIRREL

The Kaibab squirrel is large, usually dark gray and brown in color, but sometimes nearly black, with large tufted ears and a white plummy tail. It is found only on the Kaibab Plateau among the western yellow pine trees.

This squirrel does not hibernate in winter, but lives on the bark of western yellow pine twigs. It does not chatter as does the red squirrel and is timid. Consequently, it is not often seen by tourists, although it may sometimes be observed running on the ground from tree to tree.

One kept in captivity on the Kaibab during the summer would eat almost anything. It preferred carrots, lettuce, melons, and green corn, and always ate some bark of western yellow pine twigs no matter what else it had.

These squirrels are protected from hunting and trapping.

FIRE

From 15 to 30 forest fires occur on the Kaibab in a year, most of which are caused by lightning. Some fires are caused by smokers.

We can not prevent lightning fires, but we can prevent fires caused by smokers and neglected camp fires if everyone will be careful.



Every lover of the woods will take the following pledge:
I will—

1. Be sure my match is out.
2. Never throw away a lighted cigar or cigarette stub or empty living coals from a pipe.
3. Build a small camp fire, in the open, in a safe place. Put it out before leaving.
4. Smoke only in camp.
5. Leave a clean camp—a gentleman's camp.
6. Put out any fire I find, if I can, and notify the forest ranger.





